

Hathorn
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THE RESULTS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE SUBMITTED to the New York police force primarily to determine how many are members of the Christian Front are open to conflicting interpretations; Mayor LaGuardia's statement on the issue is not. He has vigorously seconded Police Commissioner Valentine's contention that membership in the Front and service on the force are incompatible. The immediate question is what measures will be taken to give substance to his words. According to preliminary figures issued by the Mayor's office, 27 policemen admit that they are still enrolled in the Christian Front; 380 others confess to membership in the past. We see no alternative in the case of the twenty-seven to a flat demand for their resignation from the Front or the force. There are already signs that last year's street violence will be renewed in the spring under Coughlinite auspices—which means that policemen identified with the Front have no business patrolling the streets. As for the 407 who disclaim present affiliation, obviously no reprisals are in order. Undoubtedly many of them joined in innocence; certainly there is no immediate way of knowing how many retain a secret sympathy with the terrorist organization. That will be determined by their behavior in the coming months. It would be foolish to believe that the problem will be dissipated overnight, but there is reassurance in the apparent determination of city officials to face the issue before it attains explosive proportions.